

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
PC-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 /086 R

DRAFTED BY AF/I:LGSHURTLEFF
APPROVED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON
AF/I:WHLEWIS
AF/W:RGHOUDEK
AF/E:JWHITING (INFO)
AF/W:BKIRKPATRICK
D/HA:MBOVA
EB/IDF/ODF:FTHOMAS
TREASURY:BZINMAN (SUBS)
AF/EPS:RDUNCAN (INFO)
-----202241Z 112753 /20

O R 202216Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, EAID, SHUM, DM, IBRD

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS

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REF: STATE 109281 (NOTAL)

1. IN LINE WITH DECLARED ADMINISTRATION POLICY TO USE OUR
VOICE AND VOTE IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO
FURTHER HUMAN RIGHTS, US EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR IBRD WILL
BE INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN IN MAY 24 VOTE ON TWO PROPOSED
IDA LOANS FOR BENIN. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL DRAW ON

FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN EXPLAINING HIS VOTE TO IBRD BOARD;

--THE US IS ABSTAINING ON TWO PROPOSED IDA LOANS TO BENIN BECAUSE OF OUR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN THAT COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND IMPRISONMENT. WE HAVE SPOKEN PRIVATELY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BENIN TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN IN THIS REGARD.

--WE ARE ALSO MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THESE TWO LOANS - TWO MILLION DOLLARS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND \$5.5 MILLION FOR FEEDER ROADS - ARE LIKELY TO BENEFIT DIRECTLY THE PEOPLE OF THAT NEEDY COUNTRY. THUS,

WE HAVE CHOSEN THIS METHOD OF REGISTERING OUR CONCERN, RATHER THAN ACTIVELY OPPOSING THESE TWO LOANS ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS.

--WE HOPE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN BENIN IMPROVE, AND STAND PREPARED TO WORK WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACTIVELY TO PROMOTE PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF BENIN.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL NOT PUBLICIZE ABOVE ACTION AND STATEMENT, BUT WILL BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO PRESS QUESTIONS SHOULD OUR ABSTENTION BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, AS IS LIKELY.

3. EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO USE ABOVE TALKING POINTS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROACH AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF HOST GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO MAY 24 IBRD VOTE. PLEASE REPORT DETAILS OF THIS DEMARCH AND BENINESE REACTION TO IT. YOU MAY NOTE THAT AMBASSADOR SEELYE DISCUSSED OUR CONCERNS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS TREND IN BENIN DURING HIS MAY 12 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR BOYA (REFTEL). YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO NOTE THAT US HAS RECENTLY TAKEN SIMILAR ACTIONS IN IBRD AND INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WITH RESPECT TO OTHER COUNTRIES HAVING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Litigation History:
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Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CONFIDENTIAL
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